

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 MOSCOW 08327 101925Z  
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 BIB-01 ACDA-07 CIAE-00 DODE-00  
PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01  
PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 IO-13 /079 W  
-----110557Z 024151 /15

R 101625Z JUN 77  
FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8574  
INFO AMCONSUL LENINGRAD  
AMCONSUL MUNICH  
AMEMBASSY BELGRADE  
AMEMBASSY BERLIN  
USMISSION BERLIN  
AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST  
AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST  
AMEMBASSY PRAGUE  
AMEMBASSY SOFIA  
AMEMBASSY WARSAW

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 8327

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PINT, UR  
SUBJECT: PODGORNYY'S OUSTER: THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE PLENUM

REF: MOSCOW 8140

1. THE FOLLOWING WAS GIVEN TO US BY FRG EMBASSY FROM  
AND FRG JOURNALIST WHO OBTAINED IT FROM MORE THAN ONE  
SOVIET SOURCE:

-- AT THE MAY 24 CPSU-CC PLENUM SESSION CHAIRED  
BY SUSLOV, FIRST SECRETARY OF DONETSK OBKOM (KACHURA)  
SAID THE TIME HAD COME FOR BREZHNEV TO ASSUME PODGORNYY'S  
TITLE IN VIEW BREZHNEV'S INTERNATIONAL RESPONSIBILITIES  
AND PROTOCOLARY DIFFICULTIES WHICH COULD ARISE  
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FROM HIS LACK OF THIS TITLE.

-- GRISHIN (MOSCOW OBKOM) SAID THIS WAS A GOOD  
PROPOSAL WHICH SHOULD BE DISCUSSED. THERE WAS A  
QUESTION OF TIMING. SHOULD HE TAKE JOB, IT WOULD BE  
ISEFUL FOR BREZHNEV TO HAVE A SPECIAL DEPUTY.

-- SHCHERBITSKIY (UKRAINIAN SSR) SPOKE NEXT BUT  
IT IS NOT REPORTED WHAT HE SAID.

-- ROMANOV (LENINGRAD OBKOM) DECLARED THAT THIS WAS  
A VERY GOOD PROPOSAL AND THAT THE DECISION SHOULD BE  
TAKEN IMMEDIATELY; HE CALLED FOR A VOTE.

-- SUSLOV CALLED AN INTERMISSION, RECONVENED THE  
MEETING AND PUT THE QUESTION TO A VOTE.

-- THE PROPOSAL WAS ADOPTED AND PODGORNYY STEPPED DOWN  
FROM THE PODIUM, CRUSHED.

2. COMMENT: THIS VERSION OF HOW PODGORNYY WAS  
OUSTED HAS THE MERIT OF COMBINING TWO OTHER VERSIONS  
(REFTEL) ACCORDING TO WHICH EITHER ROMANOV OR SUSLOV  
MOVED THE VOTE. IF TRUE IT SUGGESTS A CAREFULLY  
PREPARED AND ORCHESTRATED SCENARIO, ALLOWING BREZHNEV TO  
TAKE PODGORNYY'S SLOT. IT LEAVES OPEN THE QUESTION  
OF WHETHER PODGORNYY WAS IN FACT OFFERED THE FIRST  
DEPUTY SLOT AFTER THE ADOPTION OF THE NEW CONSTITUTION.

3. AUSTRIAN DCM TELLS US A CENTRAL COMMITTEE MEMBER  
RECENTLY CONFIRMED THAT BREZHNEV WILL SOON TAKE THE SLOT.  
AT RECEPTION YESTERDAY, CHARGE ASKED GEORGY ARBATOV  
(A SUPREME SOVIET DEPUTY) IF HE CONSIDERED BREZHNEV'S  
ELECTION TO THE PRESIDUM CHAIRMANSHIP LIKELY. ARBATOV  
REPLIED THAT WE WILL KNOW SOON ENOUGH - MOST LIKELY - JUNE 16 -  
THEN AFTER SHORT PAUSE ADDED, "IF SOMEONE SHOULD PROPOSE IT,  
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I'LL VOTE 'AYA' WITH BOTH HANDS."  
MATLOCK

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** CABINET, PERSONNEL RESIGNATIONS, POLITICAL LEADERS  
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**Copy:** SINGLE  
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**Decaption Date:** 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1977MOSCOW08327  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
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**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 77 MOSCOW 8140  
**Retention:** 0  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
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**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
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**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
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**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** PODGORNYY'S OUSTER: THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE PLENUM  
**TAGS:** PINT, UR, (PODGORNYY, NIKOLAY VIKTOROVICH), (BREZHNEV, LEONOID I)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
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22 May 2009  
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